Rewrtn: AFCVC/Maj Azorn/56371/16 Nov 54

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55 MCS 82

16 NOV 1954

General E. E. Partridge
Commander, Far East Air Forces
APO 925, c/o Postmaster
San Francisco, California

Dear Pat:

This note is in further reply to your letters of 17 and 19 August 1954 to General Twining in which you questioned the advisability of providing RT-33s for the Chinese Nationalist Air Force and proposed that we provide certain nations with a light-weight jet aircraft. Since the interim reply in September on these subjects, additional actions have been taken that will be of interest to you.

In connection with the RT-33s, MAAG Formosa and CINCPAC have been queried about the desirability of retaining these aircraft. Both reaffirmed the desire to keep the RT-33s. We are all dissatisfied with the RT-33 as a reconnaissance aircraft and action is being taken to improve the reconnaissance capabilities of the USAF and MDAP recipients.

In addition to your comments regarding a lightweight fighter, Larry Norstad, Pat Timberlake and Tommy Power had made similar proposals. These proposals, however, reflect differences in mission configuration and performance for the weapon system. In view of the interest in this area, and due to the doctrinal implications of such a weapon system, an Ad Hoc Committee under the direction of the Assistant for Development Planning has been appointed to examine this problem. General Twining has directed that this action be given priority attention and that the subject be presented to the Air Force Council at an early date.

You will be advised of further action on these subjects.

Sincerely, MGT-1-L

Signed SUP-1-L

THOMAS D. WHITE
General, United States Air Force
Vice Chief of Staff

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2 November 1954

MEMORANDUM FOR RECORD

SUBJECT: Personal letters from General Partridge to General Twining

1. On 21 Sep 54 two letters addressed to Gen Twining from Gen Partridge were received from DCS/O for preparation of reply.

2. In General Partridge's letter of 19 August 54 he expressed concern over the assignment of RT-33s to Formosa Nationalist Chinese Air Force. Letter of 17 August 54 proposed that countries of Southeast Asia be provided a lightweight, unsophisticated jet aircraft, with a limited ground support capability.

3. An interim reply was made to the two letters on 28 September 54.

4. On 10 October 54 a letter was sent to General Partridge informing him that the only reconnaissance vehicles available for Formosa were the RF-80 or RT-33 and CINCPAC and MAAG Formosa had reaffirmed the desire to keep the RT-33.

5. On 29 September General Timberlake, APGC, wrote a personal letter to General Twining, proposing that a light weight fighter be developed for NATO and USAF.

6. As a result of General Partridge and General Timberlakes' letters, General White directed that a presentation for a lightweight fighter be brought before the Air Council as soon as possible.

7. A tentative date for this presentation was set for 28 Oct 54.

8. On 18 October 54 a memorandum was sent to the Dir/DRQ requesting that the Tactical Air Committee of the Aircraft and Weapons Board study this problem and make every effort to meet the 28th of October presentation to the Air Council.

9. General Price, the Chairman of the Aircraft and Weapons Board, decided that an Ad Hoc Committee, monitored by the Assistant for Development Planning, should be given this problem with the objective of coming up with a DPO that would satisfy the broad operational requirement that had been established for the lightweight, unsophisticated, fighter weapon system.

10. General Cooper of Development Planning will be the Chairman of the Ad Hoc Committee and is shooting for a December 1st completion date for the DPO.

11. ACTION: The attached letter to General Partridge when signed will inform him of the actions that are being taken on his letters of 17 and 19 Aug 54.

12. No DSD or AIH item.

F. J. Collins

F.J.COLLINS
Col, USAF
AFOOP-OP-T

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